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October 19, 2006

Mr. William J. Moloney
Commissioner
State Board of Education
200 East Colfax Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Commissioner Moloney:

There have been several local news reports of Colorado school districts offering free all-day kindergarten to children who speak only Spanish while denying all-day kindergarten to other children. I enclose the story from Denver KMGH-TV Channel 7 News broadcast on Oct. 17 about a program at South Street Elementary School in Douglas County. It is my understanding that similar programs are being offered in other areas of the state.

Parents of English-speaking students have been told they are not eligible for all-day kindergarten because their children do not need the English-language instruction provided to Spanish-language students.

Whether funded by district funds or state funds or a mixture of funds, such programs seem discriminatory.

Are such programs are legal under federal and state non-discrimination laws. Can children be denied equal access to all-day kindergarten just because their native language is English?

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress

Cc: SBE Chairman Pamela Jo Suckla
SBE District 6 Representative Randy DeHoff
USED Regional Representative Patricia Chlouber